priority in communication to emergency calls;

voice and data communication facility; and

emergency calling advantage.

The proposal is under active consideration and a final decision in the matter is expected to be taken shortly.

Cultural Invasion in Kashmir

*620. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Kargil sector of Kashmir, efforts are being made by foreign-inspired agencies to supplant Indian/Kashmiri culture by importing Iranian culture of fundamentalism as appeared in the Indian Express of 8th June, 1998;

(b) if so, how the foreign-inspired trust slushing with foreign funds are allowed to function in this highly sensitive area of Kashmir; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to see that foreign-inspired trusts/bodies are not allowed to function so that local identity of the people is not jeopardised and Indian culture continues to flourish?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The State Government has informed that Muslim population in Kargil District is dominated by Shias and they owe their allegiance to Imam Khomeini, the late spiritual leader of Iran. An organisation, namely Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust, Kargil was established in 1989, the main aim of which is to impart religious education to the youth and make all Muslims aware of the religion. Some Officials of the Embassy of Iran in India have visited Kargil on the invitation of the said organisation in the past. There are also some allegations that the said Trust is receiving funds from Iran.

The state Government has further informed that the Indian/Kashmiri culture has very deep roots and is very much flourishing in Kargil. Steps have also been taken by way of organising cultural programmes, seminars, symposiums, etc. to see that Indian/Kashmiri culture is nurtured in the right manner. Electronic media is also playing a vital role in this regard. Besides, a close watch is kept/maintained on the activities of the said Trust vis-a-vis the other religious and political organisations.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

HPT-32 Basic Training Aircraft

4592. DR. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reliability of HAL manufactured HPT-32 basic training aircraft of the IAF remained suspect from the outset; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to replace them to avoid problems of snags in engines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There have been no doubts about the reliability of HPT-32 basic training aircraft designed, developed and supplied by HAL to IAF. The fleet has logged more than 1,50,000 flying hours.

(b) Not applicable in view of reply to part (a) of the Question.

Withdrawal of Forces from China Borders

4593. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 18th June, 1998, under the caption "Sleepy Indo-China border comes to life";